

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1553
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2317

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT
SUBJECT: THE JUNE 13 CELEBRATIONS

REF: SANA 2301

1. THE JUNE 13 CELEBRATIONS MARKING PRESIDENT IBRAHIM AL-HAMDI'S THIRD YEAR IN POWR PASSED WITH THE USUAL SPEECHES, PARADES AND PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS. APART FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH ON JUNE 11 IN WHICH HE ANNOUNCED THE OFFICIAL INCEPTION OF THE NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN (DETAILS TO BE REPORTED BY SEPTTEL) PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI'S ADDRESSES WERE GENERALLY COUCHED IN GENRAL TERMS DESCRIBING HIS GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL YEMENIS UNDER A STRONGER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ABLE TO ENSURE STABILITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. AL-HAMDI DID, HOWEVER, MAKE VEILED ALLUSIONS TO THOSE WHO "REFUSE TO COME TO SANA" (READ SHAYKH AL-AHMAR) TO SEE WITH THEIR OWN EYES THE PROGRESS WHICH HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT ARE PRESENTLY ACHIEVING. IN THIS CONTEXT HE NOTED THAT OTHERS WHO OPPOSED THE REPUBLIC IN THE PAST HAD DISAPPEARED FROM THE POLITICALSCENE AND IMPLIED THE SAME WOULD HAPPEN TO THOSE WHO CURRENTLY OPPOSE THE REPUBLIC. HIS SPEECHES, HOWEVER, WERE BY AND LARGE LOW-KEY AND BROKE
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NO NEW GROUND.

2. SECURITY HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY TIGHT IN SANA DURING THE LAST WEEK OR SO AND RUMORS ABOUND THAT THE REGIME HAS UNCOVERED AN ANTI-REGIME PLOT BY SOME HIGH-RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS WORKING WITH ABU SHUWARIB (SEE REFTTEL). NONETHELESS, THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IN SANA HAS BEEN FESTIVE, IF NOT

ENTHUSIASTIC, AND MOST YEMEN'S APPEAR PREPARED TO AGREE THAT THE LAST THREE YEARS UNDER AL-HAMDI'S LEADERSHIP HAVE IN FACT PROVIDED YEMEN WITH THE NECESSARY POLITICAL STABILITY TO BEGIN MAKING SERIOUS HEADWAY IN DEVELOPMENT AFFAIRS.

3. COMMENT: WE HAD EARLIER BEEN TOLD THAMZ AL-HAMDI WOULD MAKE IMPORTANT POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS DURING THE JUNE 13 CELEBRATION BUT WE NOW LEARN THAT HE IS APPARENTLY SAVING THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE "POPULAR CONFERENCE" (MUTAMIR SHAB'BI) WHICH WILL BE HELD IN HODEIDAH IN ABOUT TEN DAYS.

AT THAT TIME AL-HAMDI IS EXPECTED TO OUTLINE STEPS OVER THE NEXT YEAR, WHICH WILL LEAD TO THE EVENTUAL FORMATION OF SOME SORT OF POPULAR ASSEMBLY FOLLOWING GENERAL ELECTIONS.

SCOTES

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